

JULY
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

PETER
PARKER
GOES
WILD!



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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY WEST

JOHNNY WEST, WEARING HIS ACME BOOTS KEEPS AN EYE OUT FOR KIDS IN TROUBLE.

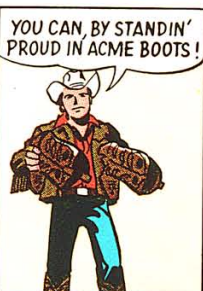
ONE DAY AFTER SCHOOL...

LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR JOHNNY WEST.

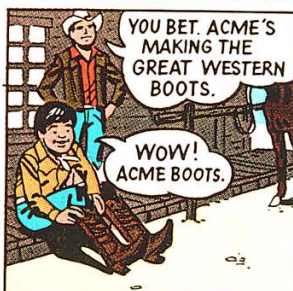
SCRAM KID, I'M BORROWIN' YOUR HORSE!



GEE, JOHNNY WEST! I WISH I COULD STAND UP TO TROUBLE LIKE YOU DO.



YOU CAN, BY STANDIN' PROUD IN ACME BOOTS!



YOU BET. ACME'S MAKING THE GREAT WESTERN BOOTS.

WOW! ACME BOOTS.



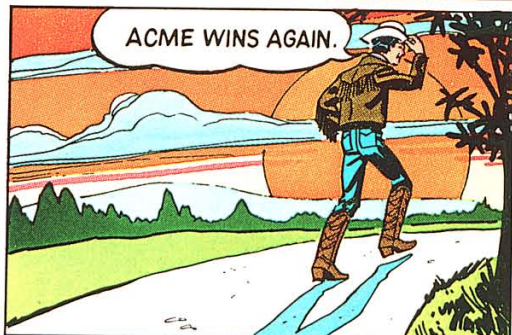
THE NEXT DAY, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY...



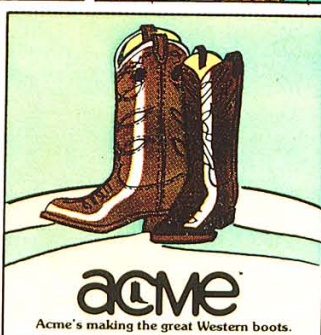
WOW... HOW DID YOU SCARE THAT BIG CREEP OFF?



THANKS, JOHNNY WEST...



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Acme's making the great Western boots.

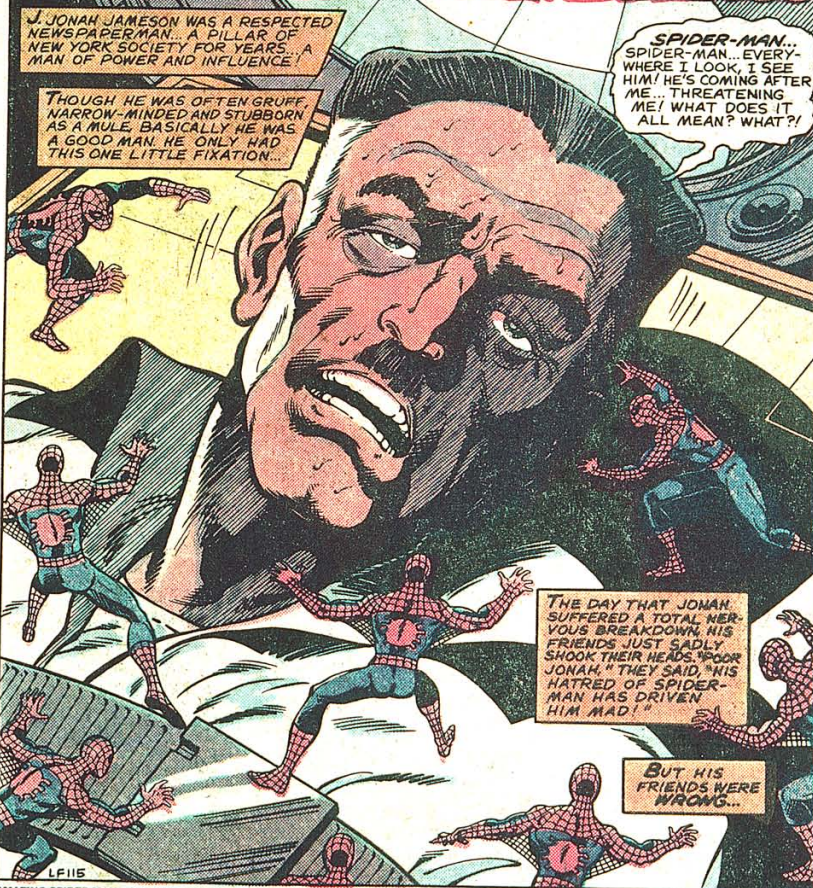
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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers... and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

ROGER STERN WRITER | JOHN BYRNE & GENE DAY ARTISTS | DIANA ALBERS, LETTERER | DENNIS O'NEIL, EDITOR | GEORGE ROUSSOS, COLORIST | JIM SHOOTER, ED-IN-CHIEF

"A METHOD IN HIS MADNESS!"



J. JONAH JAMESON WAS A RESPECTED NEWSPAPERMAN... A PILLAR OF NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR YEARS... A MAN OF POWER AND INFLUENCE!

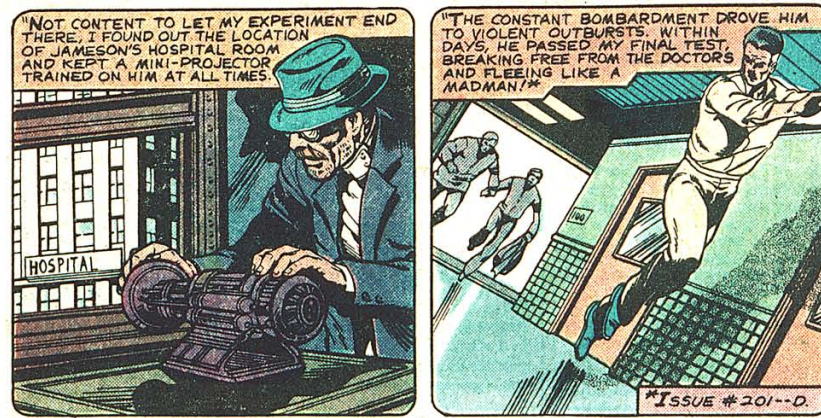
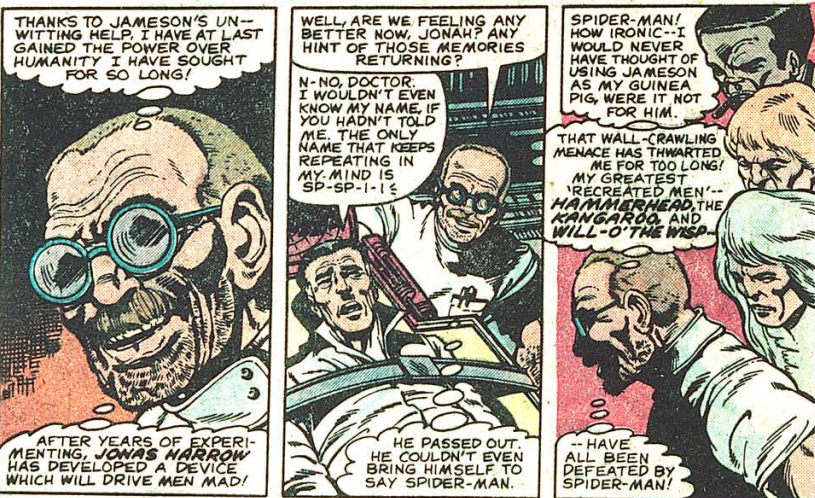
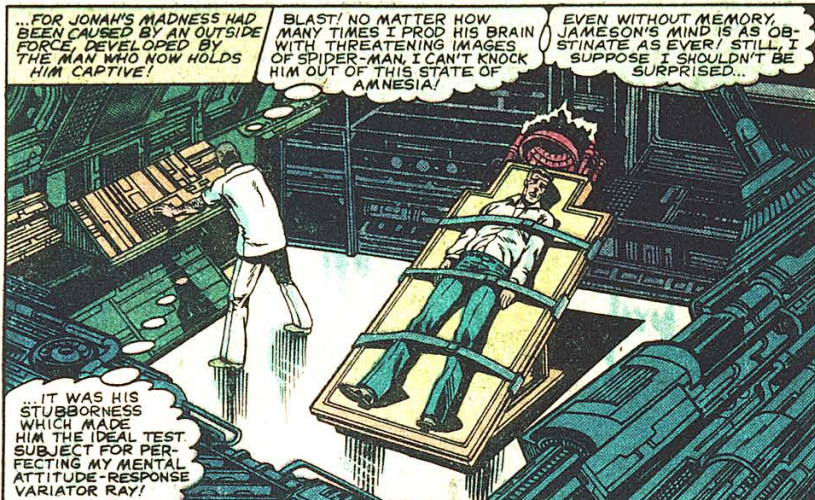
THOUGH HE WAS OFTEN GRUFF, NARROW-MINDED AND STUBBORN AS A MULE, BASICALLY HE WAS A GOOD MAN. HE ONLY HAD THIS ONE LITTLE FIXATION...

SPIDER-MAN... SPIDER-MAN... EVERYWHERE I LOOK, I SEE HIM! HE'S COMING AFTER ME... THREATENING ME! WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? WHAT?!

THE DAY THAT JONAH SUFFERED A TOTAL NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, HIS FRIENDS JUST SADLY SHOOK THEIR HEADS. "SPIDER-MAN," THEY SAID, "HIS HATRED OF SPIDER-MAN HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD!"

BUT HIS FRIENDS WERE WRONG...

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 208, July, 1980, U.S.P.S. 018-800. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1980 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 40¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$6.00 for 12 issues. Canada, \$6.00. Foreign, \$7.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP.



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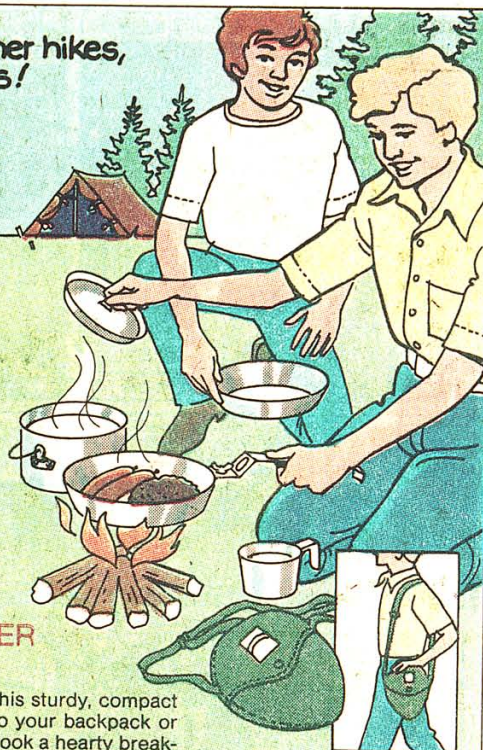
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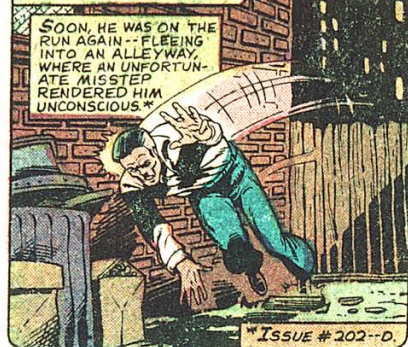
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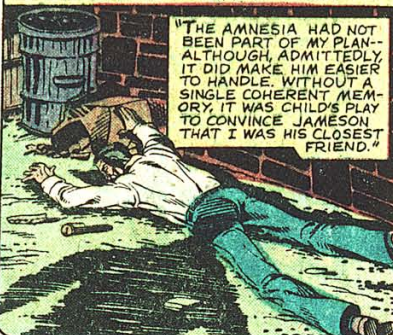
"FOR A TIME, I LEARNED, HE HID OUT IN THE BUGLE BUILDING-- BUT HE COULDN'T REMAIN HIDDEN THERE FOR LONG!"



SOON, HE WAS ON THE RUN AGAIN-- FLEEING INTO AN ALLEYWAY WHERE AN UNFORTUNATE MISSTEP RENDERED HIM UNCONSCIOUS."

* ISSUE # 202 -- D.

"THAT WAS WHERE I FINALLY FOUND HIM. HE SUSTAINED ONLY A MINOR CONCUSSION-- BUT IN HIS STATE OF MIND, IT WAS ENOUGH TO INDUCE A NEAR-TOTAL AMNESIA!"



"THE AMNESIA HAD NOT BEEN PART OF MY PLAN-- ALTHOUGH, ADMITTEDLY, IT DID MAKE HIM EASIER TO HANDLE. WITHOUT A SINGLE COHERENT MEMORY, IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY TO CONVINCE JAMESON THAT I WAS HIS CLOSEST FRIEND."



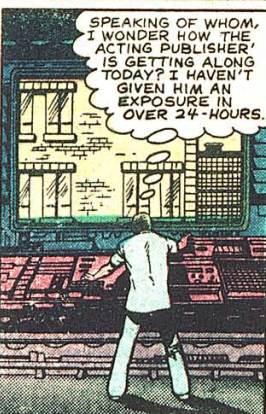
INTERESTING, THOUGH IT'S ALMOST AS IF HIS MIND HAD SUBMERGED HIS MEMORIES AS A DEFENSE AGAINST THE INDUCED PSYCHOSIS.

JONAH JAMESON MAY WELL BE THE ONE MAN ON EARTH WHO IS JUST TOO STUBBORN TO STAY CRAZY! NOT THAT IT MATTERS NOW...



I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED ENOUGH DATA FROM JAMESON'S TESTING TO PERFECT MY APPARATUS!

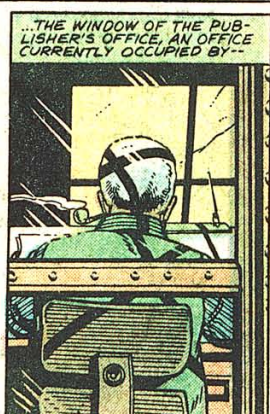
WHY, I ALREADY HAVE HIS SUCCESSOR NEARLY AS UNSTABLE AS JONAH WAS BEFORE THE BREAKDOWN!



SPEAKING OF WHOM, I WONDER HOW THE ACTING PUBLISHER IS GETTING ALONG TODAY? I HAVEN'T GIVEN HIM AN EXPOSURE IN OVER 24 HOURS.



PLAYING THE CONTROLS OF THE GIANT VIEW-SCREEN, HARROW ZOOMS IN ON ONE PARTICULAR WINDOW OF THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING...



...THE WINDOW OF THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE, AN OFFICE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY--

--JOE ROBERTSON!

COME IN, MARLA. I'M GLAD YOU COULD DROP BY.

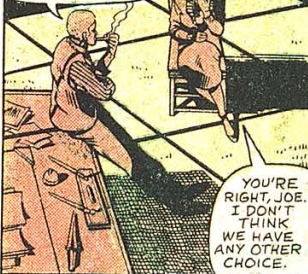
I CAME AS SOON AS I GOT YOUR MESSAGE, JOE. HAS...HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD ON JONAH?

NO, THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DISCUSS. PLEASE-- HAVE A SEAT!



SO FAR, THE POLICE AND THE DETECTIVES WE'VE HIRED HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD ABOUT KEEPING JONAH'S CONDITION QUIET. BUT HE'S STILL MISSING...HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!

I THINK IT'S TIME WE CONSIDERED PUBLISHING AN APPEAL IN THE BUGLE...PERHAPS OFFER A REWARD!



YOU'RE RIGHT, JOE. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE.

AND, IN HARROW'S LAB THAT SCENE LOOKS FAR TOO FRIENDLY. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO CHANGE THAT!



OF COURSE, I'M RIGHT! WHO DO YOU THINK HAS REALLY BEEN RUNNING THE BUGLE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS?

SO, IT FINALLY COMES OUT! YOU DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT JONAH!



OH, AND I SUPPOSE YOU DO? COME OFF IT, WOMAN-- IT'S JONAH'S MONEY THAT KEEPS YOU AROUND!



YOU DARE SAY THAT TO ME, YOU PIG? WHY, I OUGHT TO CRANK THAT SMELLY PIPE DOWN YOUR THROAT!

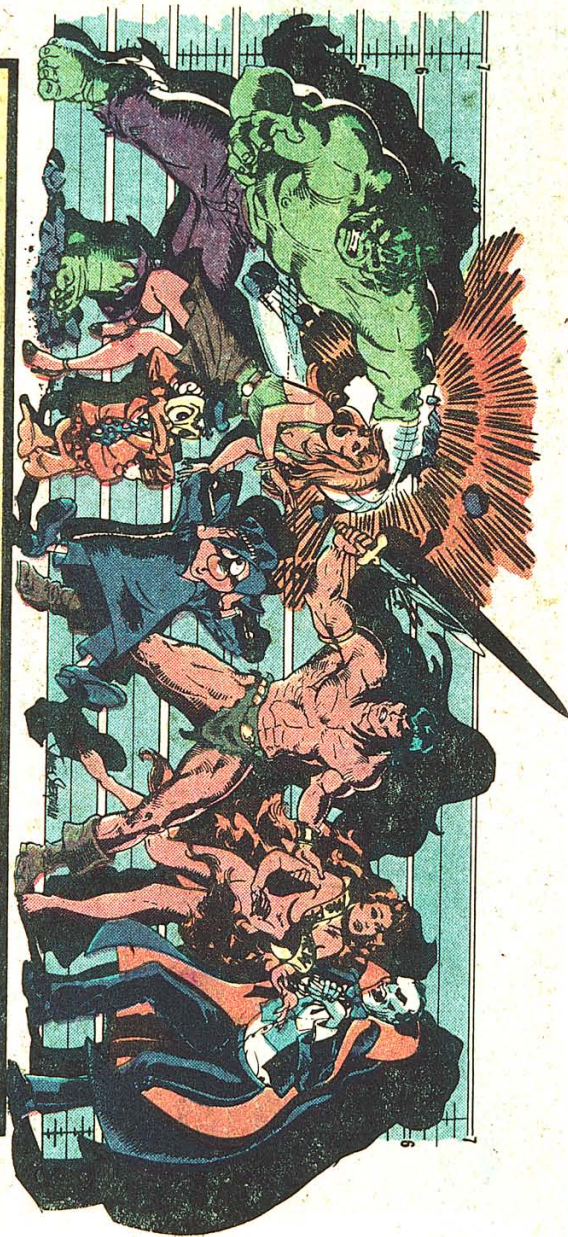


MEANWHILE, BARELY THIRTY FEET AWAY FROM THE ESCALATING ARGUMENT, PETER PARKER INTRUDES ON THE BUSTLE OF THE BUGLE CITY ROOM.



IF BARNEY BUSHKIN OVER AT THE GLOBE EVER KNEW HOW OFTEN HIS FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPH DROPPED BY THIS PLACE, HE'D HAVE A FIT!

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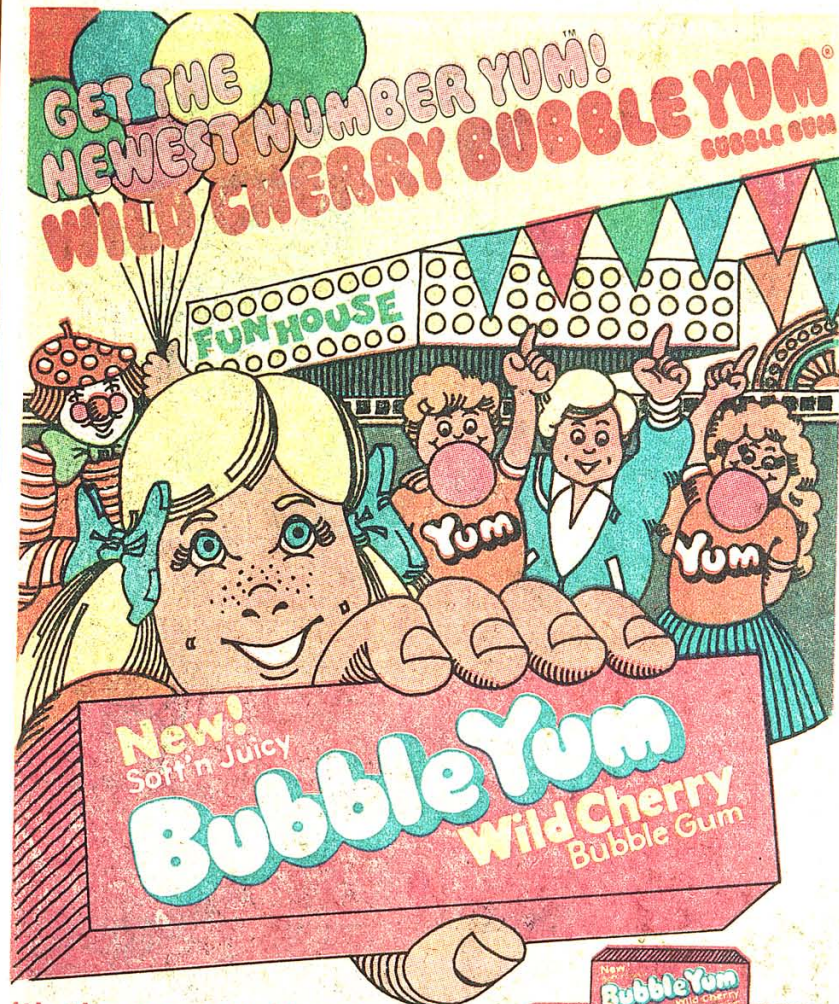
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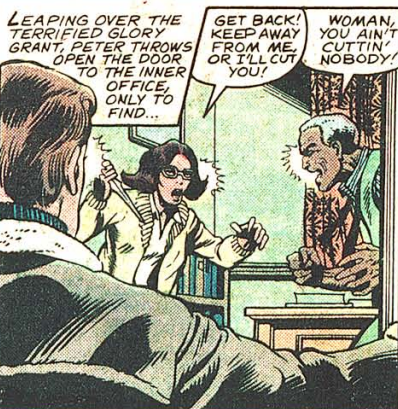
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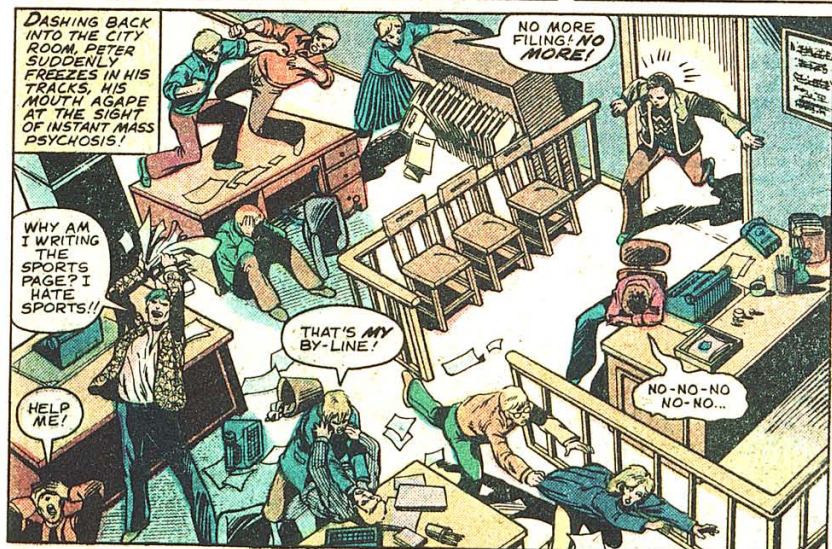
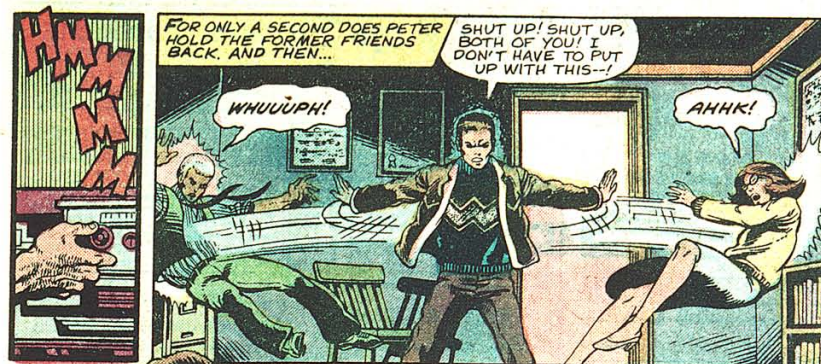
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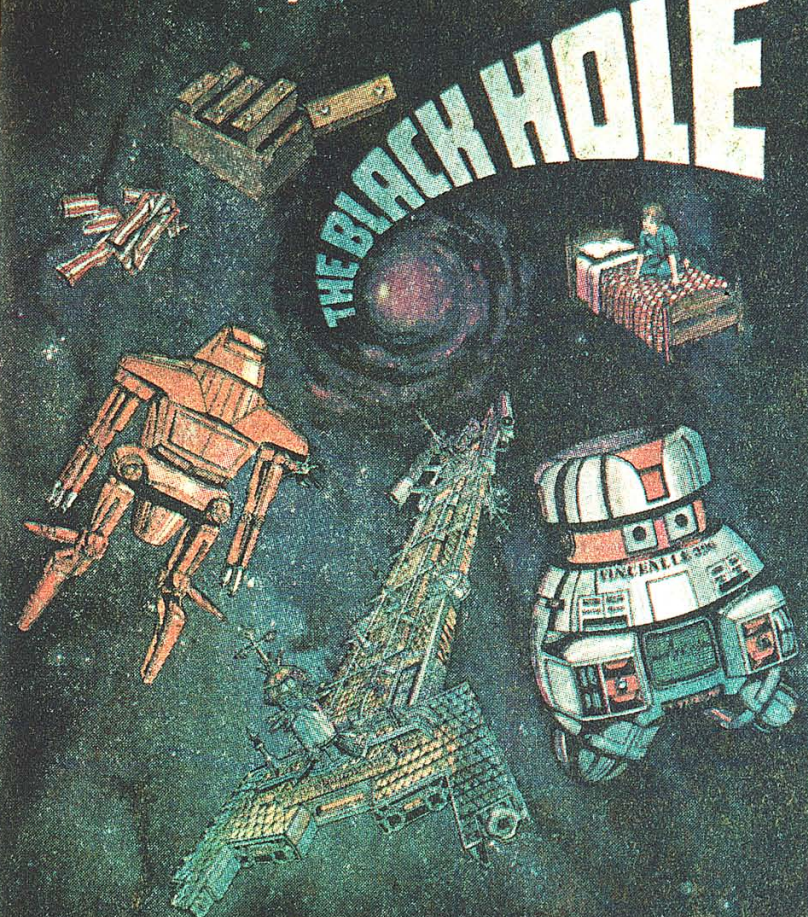
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MAYBE THIS'LL DO IT!



BRRRRRNNGGGGG

OUT! EVERYBODY OUT-- NOW! COME ON-- MOVE IT! HEAD FOR STAIRWAY 'C'!

IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE ALL ACTING INSTINCTIVELY!



THE YEARS OF FIRE DRILLS PAY OFF. IN LESS THAN A MINUTE, PETER FINDS HIMSELF ALONE IN THE DEVASTATED CITY ROOM...

EVERYONE'S GONE... I KNOW THEY'RE GONE! BUT NOW THAT THE SHOCK OF THE WHOLE THING IS OVER, I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SOMEONE IS STILL HERE! AND HE'S OUT TO GET ME!

I...FEEL...SICK...



NO! I HAVE TO GET HOLD OF MYSELF! SOMETHING IS CAUSING THIS... SOMETHING UNNATURAL, LIKE GLORYSAID! I JUST HAVE TO GRIT MY TEETH--



--AND LET MY SPIDER-SENSE LEAD ME TO THE PLACE WHERE THE FEELING--THE DANGER IS STRONGEST!



STUMBLING FORWARD LIKE A SLEEP-WALKER, PETER SOON FINDS THE FOCAL POINT OF HIS DISTRESS...

JONAH'S OFFICE! YEAR... THAT MAKES SENSE SOMEHOW. BUT WHAT'S CAUSING THIS... INSANITY?



THAT SICK FEELING IS STRONGEST HERE... ALMOST AS IF IT WERE COMING FROM...

THAT WATER TOWER.

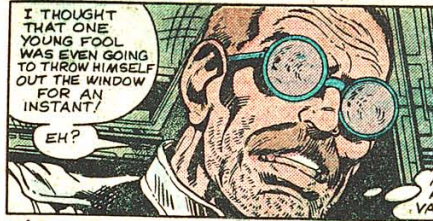


MUSTERING ALL OF HIS WILL, PETER LURCHES AWAY FROM THE WINDOW, BREAKING INTO A DESPERATE SPRINT FOR THE STAIRS.



AND, IN HARROW'S LABORATORY...

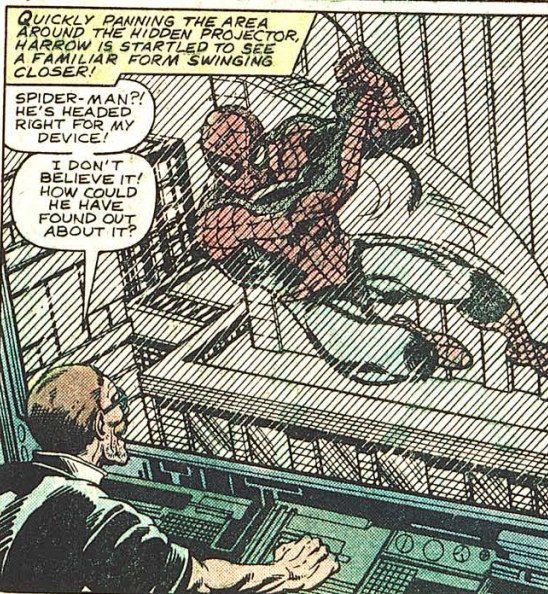
IT'S A SUCCESS--A BLASTED SUCCESS! THE WIDE-ANGLE BEAM WORKS EVEN BETTER THAN I HOPED! THE ENTIRE OFFICE DISSOLVED INTO MADNESS!



I THOUGHT THAT ONE YOUNG FOOL WAS EVEN GOING TO THROW HIMSELF OUT THE WINDOW FOR AN INSTANT!

EH?

THE PROXIMITY ALARM! SOMETHING'S APPROACHING THE VARIATOR RAY PROJECTOR!



QUICKLY PANNING THE AREA AROUND THE HIDDEN PROJECTOR, HARROW IS STARTLED TO SEE A FAMILIAR FORM SWINGING CLOSER!

SPIDER-MAN?! HE'S HEADED RIGHT FOR MY DEVICE!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HOW COULD HE HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT?



BAH! WHAT AM I WORRYING ABOUT? FOR ALL HIS POWER, HE IS ONLY HUMAN!

ALL I NEED DO IS FOCUS MY BEAM ON HIM-- LIKE SO!



NO! OH, NO! WHAT AM I DOING? NO-BODY CAN DO THIS! I'LL GET KILLED!

WHOA, THERE! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, PARKER! YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN... YOU CAN DO THINGS LIKE THIS! NO VERTIGO... NO ACROPHOBIA... EVERYTHING'S FINE!



Boy, I don't know what's in that water tower, but it's certainly effective if it'll make me doubt myself that much!



I'LL BET MY LAST ISSUE OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN THAT THERE'S A GIZMO HIDDEN IN THERE, SENDING OUT SOME SORT OF HIGH FREQUENCY WAVES TO PULL ALL THE WRONG STRINGS IN MY HEAD.

EITHER THAT, OR IT'S MAGIC!



GAINING THE ROOFTOP, SPIDER-MAN DASHES PAST THE TOWER, BUT...

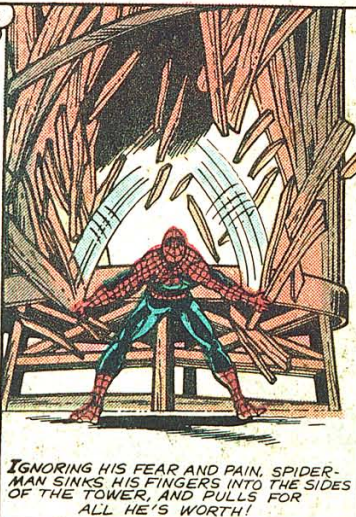


I'D HOPED THAT THE GADGET WAS STATIONARY... SO I COULD CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND IT BUT THAT SICK FEELING IS STAYING RIGHT WITH ME!

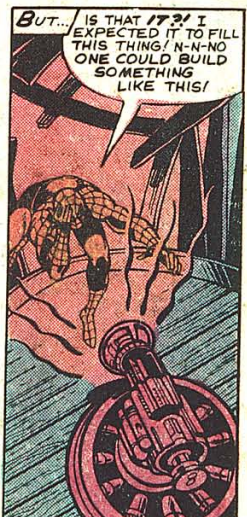
A-AND IT'S GETTING WORSE! G-G-GOTTA DO SOMETHING FAST...



GOTTA CONCENTRATE ON TRASHING THE TOWER... WHILE I CAN STILL STAND!



IGNORING HIS FEAR AND PAIN, SPIDER-MAN SINKS HIS FINGERS INTO THE SIDES OF THE TOWER, AND PULLS FOR ALL HE'S WORTH!



BUT... IS THAT IT? I EXPECTED IT TO FILL THIS THING! N-N-NO ONE COULD BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

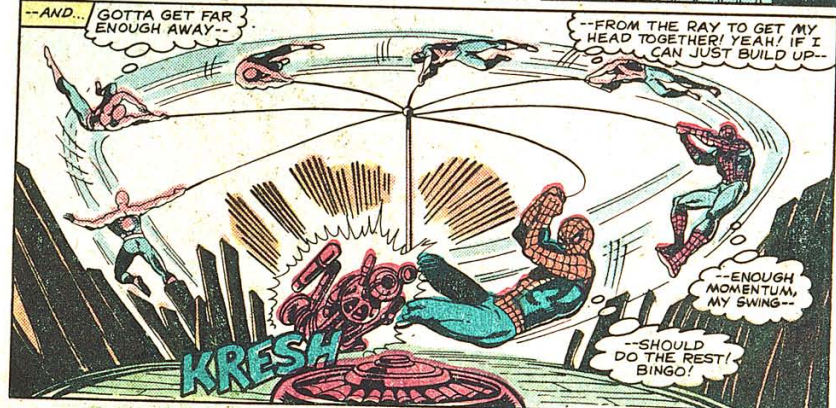


IT MUST BE THE WORK OF... OF BEINGS FROM OUTER SPACE! H-H-HELP!

THIS IS FANTASTIC! NOW I'VE TURNED SPIDER-MAN INTO A GIBBERING PARANOID! I'VE BEATEN HIM AT LAST!



BUT, EVEN CAUGHT UP IN THE THROES OF (IRRATIONAL) FEAR, SPIDER-MAN MANAGES TO SHOOT A SLENDER WEB-LINE UP TO A NEARBY FLAG-POLE AS HE RUNS--



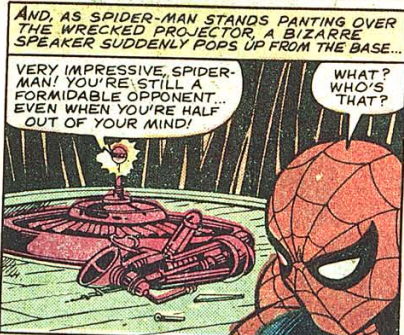
--AND... GOTTA GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY--

--FROM THE RAY TO GET MY HEAD TOGETHER! YEAH! IF I CAN JUST BUILD UP--

KRESH

--ENOUGH MOMENTUM, MY SWING--

--SHOULD DO THE REST! BINGO!



AND, AS SPIDER-MAN STANDS PANTING OVER THE WRECKED PROJECTOR, A BIZARRE SPEAKER SUDDENLY POPS UP FROM THE BASE...

VERY IMPRESSIVE, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE STILL A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT... EVEN WHEN YOU'RE HALF OUT OF YOUR MIND!

WHAT? WHO'S THAT?



THE NAME OF JONAS HARROW WOULD MEAN LITTLE TO YOU, THOUGH WE'VE BEEN ADVERSARIES FOR SOME TIME! YOU SEE...

FASCINATED, SPIDER-MAN LISTENS AS THE VOICE FIRST RECOUNTS HARROW'S ROLE IN HIS PAST AND IN JAMESON'S BREAKDOWN-- AND THEN ISSUES A CHALLENGE!



SHORTLY...

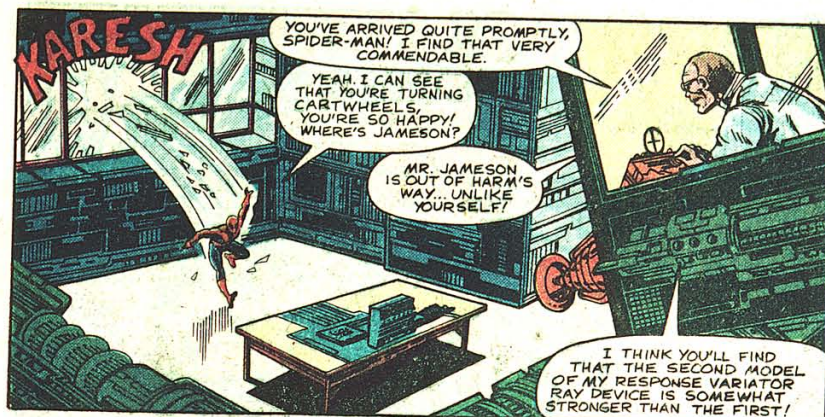
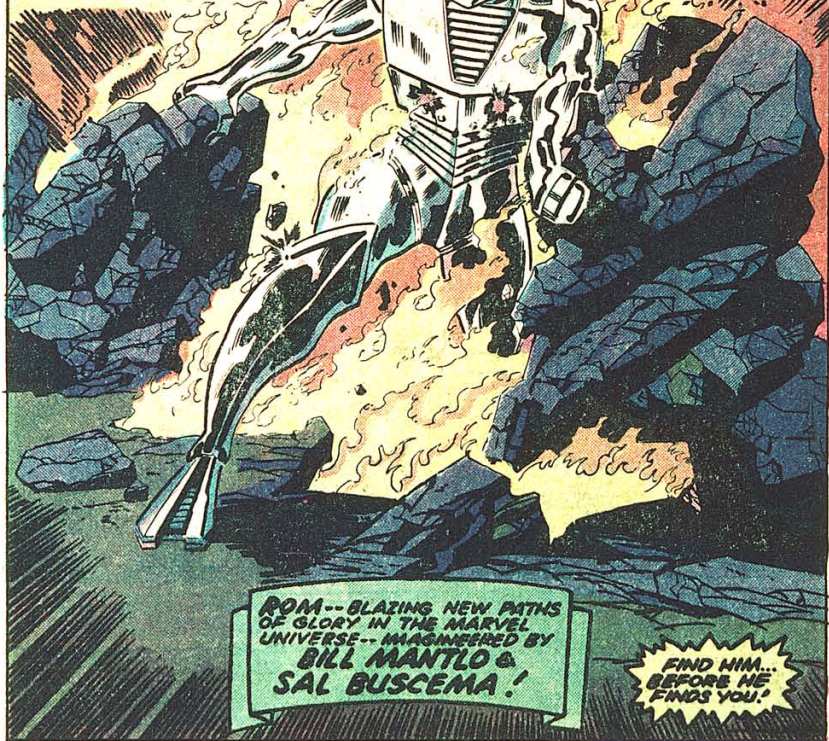
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S CRAZIER... HARROW, FOR DARING ME TO MEET HIM ON HIS OWN GROUND... OR ME, FOR TAKING HIM UP ON IT!



AND NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!!

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OH, JONAH--THERE YOU ARE! DON'T WORRY-- I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS!

EH?



SPIDER-MAN... ISN'T THREATENING ME? I'M TRYING TO HELP ME?



BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SPIDER-MAN CAN'T BE HELPING ME!



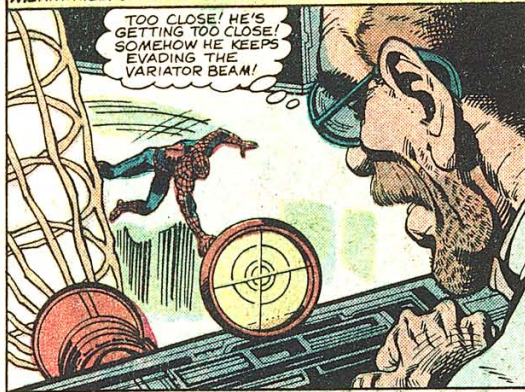
I... HATE... SPIDER-MAN!

AND SO, THE SIGHT OF THE MAN HE HATES ACCOMPLISHES WHAT HARROW'S PROBING COULD NOT! JONAH JAMESON'S MIND SNAPS BACK TO NORMAL!



NO-WEB-SPINNING FREAK IS GOING TO SAVE ME! I'LL SAVE MYSELF! HOW DO THESE BLASTED STRAPS WORK?

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF JONAH'S RETURN TO RELATIVE SANITY...

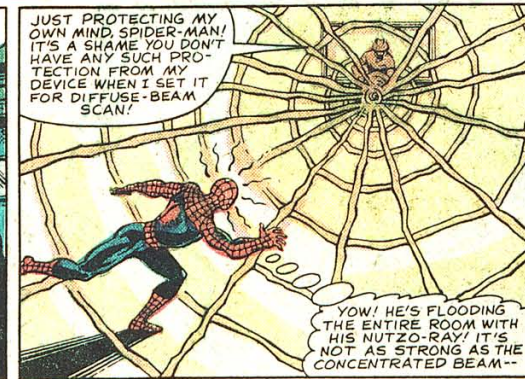


TOO CLOSE! HE'S GETTING TOO CLOSE! SOMEHOW HE KEEPS EVADING THE VARIATOR BEAM!



HE'LL MAKE GOOD HIS THREAT TO CAPTURE ME, UNLESS I DO SOMETHING DRASTIC!

WHAT'S WITH THE THINKING CAP, DOC? TRYING TO COME UP WITH A BETTER IDEA?

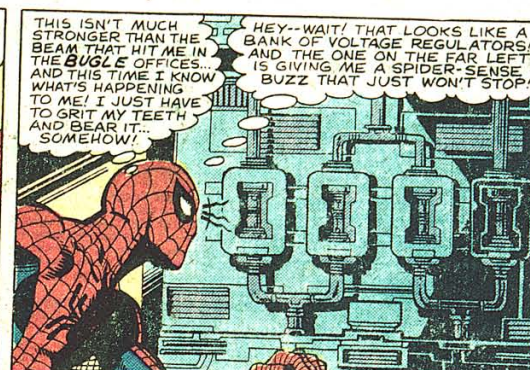


JUST PROTECTING MY OWN MIND, SPIDER-MAN! IT'S A SHAME YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH PROTECTION FROM MY DEVICE WHEN I SET IT FOR DIFFUSE-BEAM SCAN!

YOW! HE'S FLOODING THE ENTIRE ROOM WITH HIS NUTZO-RAY! IT'S NOT AS STRONG AS THE CONCENTRATED BEAM--



--BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE CREEPING WHIM-WHAMS! STILL, I HAVE TO STAND UP TO IT... I HAVE TO STOP HARROW!



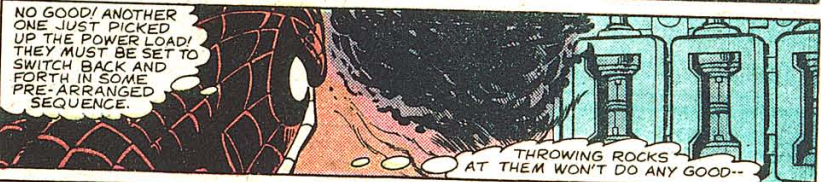
THIS ISN'T MUCH STRONGER THAN THE BEAM THAT HIT ME IN THE BUGLE OFFICES... AND THIS TIME I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME! I JUST HAVE TO GRIT MY TEETH AND BEAR IT... SOMEHOW!

HEY--WAIT! THAT LOOKS LIKE A BANK OF VOLTAGE REGULATORS! AND THE ONE ON THE FAR LEFT IS GIVING ME A SPIDER-SENSITIVE BUZZ THAT JUST WON'T STOP!



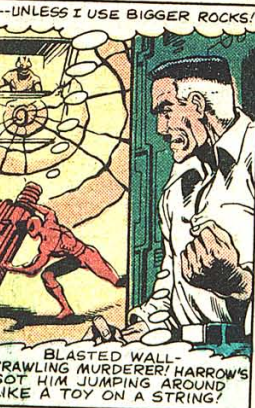
THAT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO START!

SKRA-ZZAKK



NO GOOD! ANOTHER ONE JUST PICKED UP THE POWER LOAD! THEY MUST BE SET TO SWITCH BACK AND FORTH IN SOME PRE-ARRANGED SEQUENCE.

THROWING ROCKS AT THEM WON'T DO ANY GOOD--



--UNLESS I USE BIGGER ROCKS!



I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE... THE LAST FEW DAYS SEEM LIKE A BLUR TO ME... BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ROOM MAKES MY HEAD HURT!

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE--AND GET HELP!



THERE, I ALREADY FEEL BETTER OUT HERE IN THIS CORRIDOR! NOW TO FIND... EH? WHAT'S THIS?

A PLUG?

BLASTED WALL-CRAWLING MURDERER! HARROW'S GOT HIM JUMPING AROUND LIKE A TOY ON A STRING!

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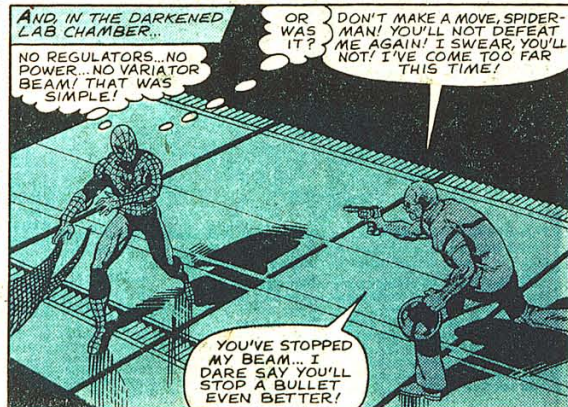
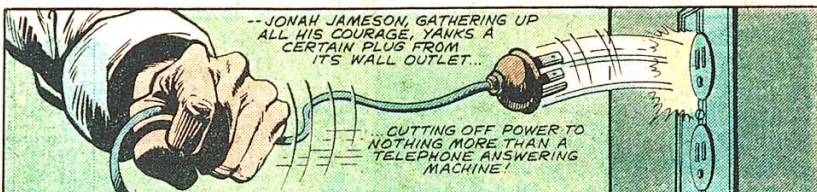
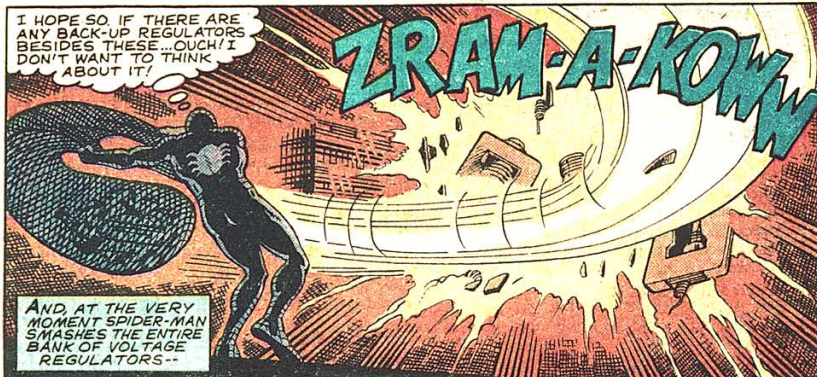
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STAN'S SOAPBOX

Well, gang, by now all of Marvel-dom has had a chance to latch onto our latest and probably greatest production, the long-awaited **EPIC ILLUSTRATED**. The final sales figures aren't yet complete, but from all the preliminary reports it looks as though **EPIC** will be the biggest sellout sensation of the decade! If the amount of mail we've received is any indication, it seems that your excitement and enthusiasm will make **EPIC** the biggest thing since Galactus! And there's one other factor that convinces me that **EPIC** is something truly special — the guys and gals in the business themselves, the artists, writers, editors, letterers, colorists, and production people — the ones who work on magazines day in and day out, the ones who've seen it all and done it all — they happen to be our very big-

gest boosters! They seem to be as thrilled with **EPIC** as anyone!

Now don't go figuring that this is just another sales pitch, another howlin' example of Lee's typical high-pressure hype, 'cause it isn't! I'm not selling a thing today — in fact, we haven't any left to sell! The ever-passionate, pantin' public has already bought out every copy it could get its hands on. I'm just writing these lovable little lines 'cause I thought you'd like to know what's happening with the magazine to which you've given such a fantastic, rousing reception. It looks like you've made **EPIC ILLUSTRATED** a roaring success, and the whole bushin' Bullpen joins me in saying, "Thanks a heap — you're heroes all!"

Excelsior!

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #65** — The Thing and Triton vs. the Serpent Squad in a race to retrieve the Serpent Crown.
- ☐ **SHOGUN WARRIORS #18** — The Shoguns in an all-out battle against the Alien attack on Earth!
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #202** — To save Scotty's life, Spider-Woman must ally herself with the Enforcer.
- ☐ **STAR TREK #4** — "The Haunted House of Space."
- ☐ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #47** — Mighty Marvel and the Electric Company bring you more exciting, easy-to-read tales of the web-slinger.
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #165** — DD faces Spider-Man's deadliest foe... Doctor Octopus!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #89** — "Many Foes Has the Hulk!"... and the Leader turns them all against of Greenskin! A Hulk classic.
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #206** — Jonah Jameson's terrible secret!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #247** — "The Return of Baron Strucker!"
- ☐ **THOR #297** — Thor's quest for the Ring of Power continues!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #19** — The Micronauts face Odd John, the mutant-insect master!
- ☐ **DAZZLER #1** — Because you demanded it — Daz in her own mag! Guest-starring Spider-Man, the X-Men, and the Avengers.
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #49** — Johnny Blaze must meet a challenge to his title as the world's greatest cyclist!
- ☐ **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #17** — "Forbidden Fruit!" What it can do to a man will make your skin crawl!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SHE-HULK #6** — She-Hulk takes on the Invincible Iron Man!
- ☐ **MARVEL FUN AND GAMES #11** — All new brain twisters to tickle your fancy.
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #249** — The man-oute in battle against Jack Frost. Art by sturdy Steve Ditko.
- ☐ **AVENGERS #197** — A new menace stalks the unsuspecting Avengers. And don't miss the most shocking surprise of all!
- ☐ **CONAN #112** — Conan lays siege to the City of the Bear God!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #117** — One of Spidey's greatest hits: Showdown with the Grizzly.
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- ☐ **ROM #6** — ROM's most powerful weapon falls into the hands of the deadly Dire Wraiths!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #37** — Luke fights a death-duel with Darth Vader.
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #90** — Shang-Chi rumbles with a vicious street-gang in New York's Chinatown!

- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #220** — Canada's favorite son John Byrne writes and draws this titanic tale of the FF in mortal combat with invading Aliens in... where else? — Canada!
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #95** — Meet the awesomely acrobatic Mockingbird. Is she Spider-Man's friend or deadly enemy?
- ☐ **IRON MAN #136** — Wait'll you see the new villain Shell-head tangles with... in merry ol' England. He'll send a chill up your spine!
- ☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #44** — Someone is killing New York's top mobsters. All Spidey's gotta find out is... who's doing it — and why?
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MARVEL MAGAZINES

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THE THING IN "SUNDAY PUNCH!"

A QUIET SUNDAY... OR IS IT?

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OOF! MY SUNDAY PUNCH AIN'T DOIN' MUCH.

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THWONK! KRUNCH! STOMP!

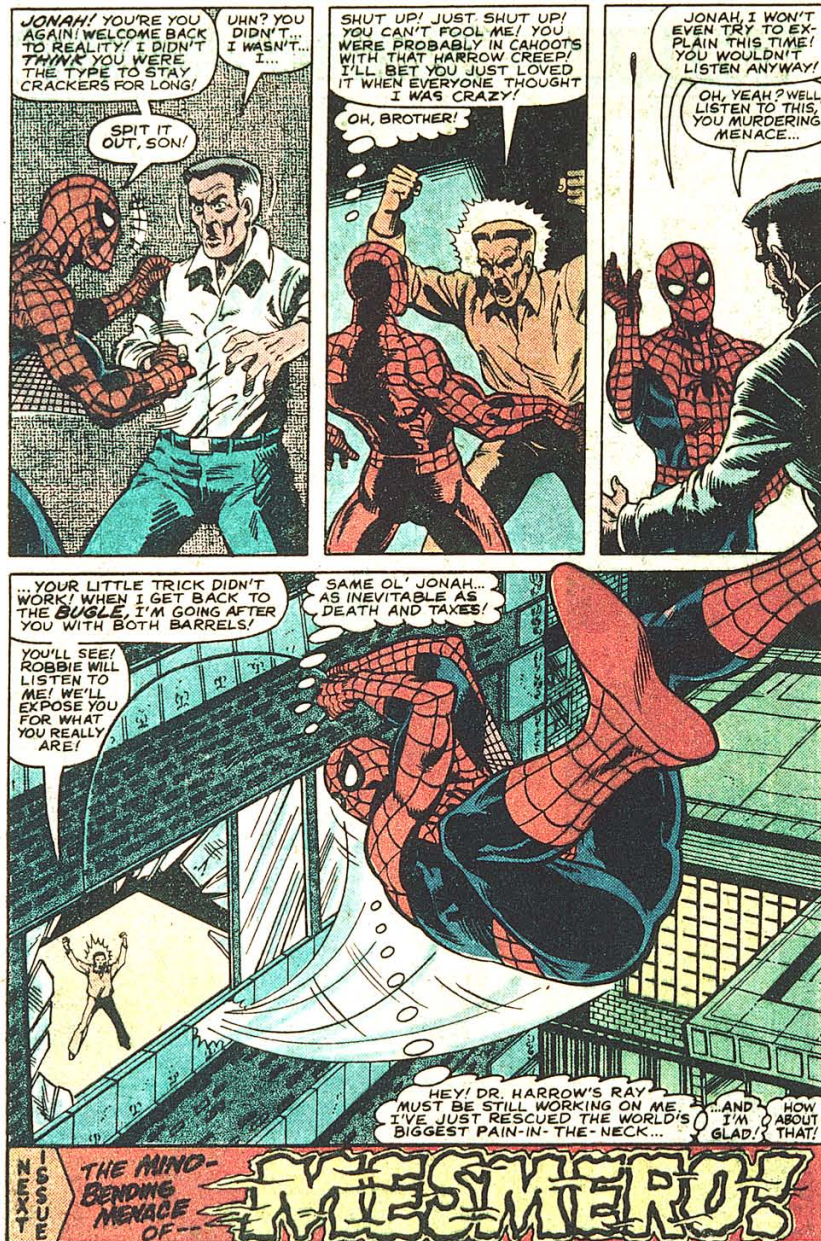
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200, without a doubt, was the best issue to date (and I've read them all)! It was a sheer masterpiece of human emotion. The depth of Parker's fury, the criminal mentality of the Burglar, the changeover from hunter to hunted, the irresistibly intense desperation on all sides... I could go on all night!

And then, not least by any means, there was that moment of expectancy fulfilled. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for page 32. I knew there was no way the lady could have just faded out into oblivion and memory. Thank you for returning my all-time favorite comics character to me... AUNT MAY LIVES!

It was beautifully executed. I was expecting it all along... but I dreaded the possibility, however slight, that May Parker might actually be dead. You've totally redeemed yourselves in my eyes.

And it was a relief to see Mrs. Parker accepting Spider-Man as a hero at last. Considering the number of times he's saved her life, it was a bit unrealistic to maintain her obsessive fear of him. And the entire SPIDER-MAN supporting cast has never been so human as they were here.

So... what next? Old villain time? The Circus of Crime? A guy named Joe? The Rhino? The Vulture? The Gibbon? The Prowler?

Whatever the future holds, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200 was a prime example of psychological manipulation, showing just what can be done in such a traditionally straightforward, simple medium.

Steve Lowther
12 The Grove
Guilmsborough, Cleveland
England

Aw, shucks, Steve! We were just doing our job, trying our best to entertain you, same as we have for two hundred some issues.

But, if you'll allow us to toot our own horn just a bit, we have to admit that we're more than a little pleased with the overwhelmingly favorable response to our bicentennial anniversary issue! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN usually gets a lot of mail, but the ol' postal pouch has never been this full! Hundreds upon hundreds of congratulations have come winging their way to 575 Madison Avenue... and they're still coming in, months later!

The sentiment is appreciated, people. But, truthfully, it is we who should thank you! It has been your support, your thoughtfulness, your caring that has made Marvel the world's greatest comics company and Spider-Man a household word around the world. We love you for it... and we promise that the first 200 issues were just the beginning!

Now, getting down to specifics, Steve... yes, some old villains (and some new) will be showing up soon, though not necessarily the ones you mentioned. As a matter of fact, Joe Smith is slated to return in CAPTAIN AMERICA #246, and both the Vulture and the Prowler should be appearing shortly in the pages of our sister magazine, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! Watch for it!

—R.S.

Dear People,

My God, I don't believe it! I actually liked AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200! In fact, I loved it! Congratulations! You've accomplished a most difficult task indeed.

You mad egotists may not believe this, but Spider-Man is not one of my favorite characters. Let me explain... Stan Lee has said that people would like to be someone like Spider-Man. I'm not so sure. If I ever became a super hero, and had a girl friend murdered before my eyes — as well as suffering countless identity crises — I wouldn't feel very heroic. I'm surprised that Spider-Man hasn't committed suicide! But I digress.

Spider-Man is a wonderful character, and I do like him. However, I think he's a bit overexposed, and he loses a lot of believability that way. If he was confined only to this magazine, perhaps I would like him a little more and wouldn't be turned off by the multiple soap operas every month.

You must admit, SPIDER-MAN is like a soap opera. But when Peter Parker is the only supporting character in the book, Spider-Man is at his best, as "The Spider and the Burglar" clearly shows. I think your supporting cast bogs the stories down — except, perhaps, for Aunt May and occasionally J. Jonah Jameson. I think that Spider-Man is quite interesting enough without a bunch of mindless idiots shuffling around all the time.

Anyway, issue #200 was an excellent adventure story, and that's definitely Spider-Man's forte. There was never a boring moment, and Keith Pollard's pencils seemed extraordinarily good. This was a story that would have done John Ford proud!

Well, I've said my piece. As for guessing which page Stan Lee wrote, I would have to say the last page. But if I'm wrong, it's probably page seven.

And before I forget, the Romita cover was much appreciated. But why not have Steve Ditko do a cover? He did create Spider-Man!

Randy Prinslow
665 Marino Drive North
Salem, OR 97303

Randy, nothing would make us happier than to have Steve do a SPIDER-MAN cover (or story, for that matter). However, when Steve returned to Marvel, he specifically requested that he be assigned neither Spider-Man nor Dr. Strange, and we, of course, will honor his wishes.

(But if he ever changes his mind...)

On that matter of your guess... yes, Stan the Man did indeed pick the last page of issue #200. The first person to correctly pick that page was Rascally Roy DeRousse of Manchester, Missouri! Congratulations, Roy! Your No-Prize should be arriving in no-time at all!

And finally, on the matter of Spider-Man's ever-lovin' supporting cast... we really have to disagree. Over the years, the response we've gotten vis-a-vis the appearance of everyone from Betty Brant to Debra Whitman has been on a par with our readership's reaction to the old Wall-Crawler himself. Does any one else have any views of this subject? As always, we want to hear your opinions!

—R.S.

Dear Marvel,

I'd like to congratulate one and all for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200. It was by far the best single SPIDER-MAN comicbook of the last decade... a fitting culmination to the 200 issues needed to mold Spider-Man's character. It was fitting, knowing the cyclical nature of Spider-Man's life, that he should polish off the Burglar, his first adversary. And though the plot element of having the buried treasure eaten by silverfish was too hackneyed for words, and the final page too reminiscent of the end of SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #5, I felt so proud of Peter Parker that I didn't care. We finally got a fitting rationale for someone becoming a super hero... a longing for justice and a loathing for cruelty and crime.

Anything less seems trivial in comparison. You did right by Spider-Man, guys!

Lazarus Dobelsky
202 Kambrook Road
Caulfield 2162
Victoria, Australia

And finally, this short note sums everything up... —R.S.

To all involved with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200:

Earlier today, I was asking myself why I, at the age of 25, still read comicbooks. Thanks for answering my question.

Roger Enevoldsen
324 Georgina Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29841

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